



# National Brownfields Assessment Pilot

## *Chippewa County/ Kinross Township, MI*

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5101)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower States, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. Between 1995 and 1996, EPA funded 76 National and Regional Brownfields Assessment Pilots, at up to \$200,000 each, to support creative two-year explorations and demonstrations of brownfields solutions. EPA is funding more than 27 Pilots in 1997. The Pilots are intended to provide EPA, States, Tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

### BACKGROUND

EPA selected Chippewa County/Kinross Township for a Brownfields Pilot. The project site is the 3,850-acre Kincheloe Air Force Base, which closed in 1977. Numerous buildings and potentially contaminated areas that include landfills, a fire training area, and an aircraft maintenance area remain at Kincheloe. Trichloroethylene has been found in the local well water, and the entire site is on Michigan's contaminated site list. Ownership of the Department of Defense (DoD) base was transferred back to this rural county without an environmental assessment or remediation. At least 20 prospective businesses have turned away from developing the site, due to concerns about potential liability associated with the uncertainty about the level of site contamination. Because the base closure predates current base closure regulations, DoD funding for Kincheloe is limited. Kincheloe impacts low to moderate income citizens and the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians in the project area.

### OBJECTIVES

The intent of Chippewa County's brownfields effort is to investigate, remediate, market, and reuse the

### PILOT SNAPSHOT



*Chippewa County, Michigan*

**Date of Award:**  
September 1996

**Amount:** \$200,000

**Site Profile:** The Pilot targets brownfields sites throughout the 3,850-acre former Kincheloe Air Force Base.

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brownfields at Kincheloe by coordinating public and private resources. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has completed 43 Phase I assessments. Chippewa County's objectives are to complete all Phase II and III assessments by mid-1997, create a task force of stakeholders that initially will target brownfields sites for redevelopment, and prepare a strategy for each parcel in compliance with Indian trust land agreements.

## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

The Pilot is:

- Completing Phase I-III site assessments;
- Convening a community task force of public and private stakeholders to plan a redevelopment strategy for each potential brownfields area and to coordinate the environmental/economic redevelopment strategy;
- Preparing legal documentation related to land ownership, liability, due care requirements, zoning, and financing, as a part of brownfields land-use planning; and
- Communicating and interacting with affected residents through task force outreach, direct mailings, public meetings, and local news media.